

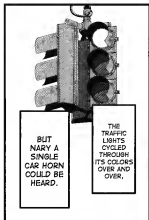
ACT5 RIDER

NOW,
ISN'T
THAT
JUST
BEAUTIFUL?









BUT
NARY A
SINGLE
CAR HORN
COULD BE
HEARD.

THE
TRAFFIC
LIGHTS
CYCLED
THROUGH
ITS COLORS
OVER AND
OVER,

IN THE
CENTER
OF THE
INTER-
SECTION,
IN THE
CENTER
OF THE
CITY.



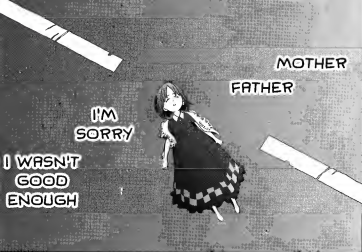
SHE
SUDDENLY
FOUND
HERSELF
STANDING
THERE,

IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF COURSE.



HAD
COMPLETELY
VANISHED
FROM HER
SIGHT.

AFTER
ALL, THE
EXIST-
ENCE
KNOWN AS
HUMANITY,

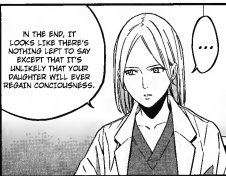


THE
OTHER
WAS...



THE FIRST
WAS SADNESS
AT BEING
UNABLE TO
SEE SOMEONE,

TWO
EMOTIONS
WELLED BACK
UP WITHIN
HER.





BUT ON
THE OTHER
HAND, IT IS
PREVENTING
HER BRAIN
FROM
FUNCTIONING.

THE BACTERIAL
INFECTION DOES
NOT APPEAR TO
HAVE MUTATED,



IS
THAT
SO...

THE DAMAGE
HASN'T BEEN
SEVERE
ENOUGH TO
CAUSE
NECROSIS
IN THE BRAIN
TISSUE;

THERE DO
NOT APPEAR
TO BE ANY
COMPLICATIONS
BEYOND THE
CURRENT
SYMPTOMS.



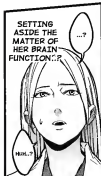
...DOCTOR.

THERE HAVE
BEEN CASES
OF PATIENTS
IN VEGETATIVE
STATES IN
EXCESS OF TEN
YEARS THAT
HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO
RECOVER.

WITH ALL
THAT SAID,
THERE IS STILL
A POSSIBILITY
SHE'LL REGAIN
CONSCIOUSNESS.

YOU CAN'T
LET YOURSELVES
GIVE UP HOPE
COMPLETELY.





IN THAT
CASE, AS LONG
AS THE COST OF
HER TREATMENT
DOESN'T CHANGE,
PLEASE CONTINUE
TO CARE FOR OUR
DAUGHTER!

IS
THAT
RIGHT!?

NO, IF
THAT'S
THE CASE,
THIS
MIGHT BE
THE BEST
NEWS
YET!

WE'RE
EXTREMELY
GRATEFUL
TO YOU,
DOCTOR!

UM,
YOU
KNOW...

HUH?

SPD CLATTER CLATTER

YOU'RE QUITE
RIGHT. LET'S
HURRY BACK
AND PREPARE
FOR TONIGHT.

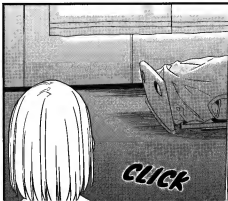
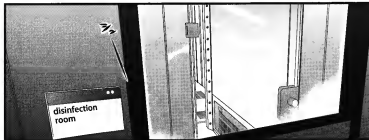
COME DEAR,
ISN'T THIS
CAUSE FOR
RELIEF?

SERIOUSLY...
JUST WHAT
WAS UP WITH
THAT COUPLE...



I SHOULD
PROBABLY
RECOMMEND
COUNSELING
THE NEXT
TIME THEY
COME IN...

MAYBE
THEY'RE
JUST
CONFUSED
AND IN
SHOCK
BECAUSE
THEIR
DAUGHTER
IS IN A
COMA...





SFX: BREATHING



JUST
WHAT HAD
HAPPENED?

HAVING
SUDDENLY
LOST
CONSCIOUSNESS
AND REFUSING
TO OPEN
HER EYES,

HER
PARENTS
FRANTICALLY
BROUGHT
HER IN.



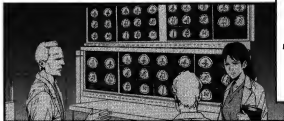
I WILL
NEVER
GIVE UP
ON YOU.

...EVEN
IF BOTH
OF YOUR
PARENTS
ABANDON
YOU,

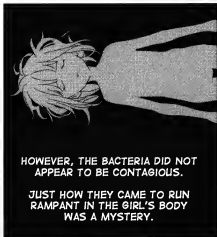


SHE'D
ALREADY BEEN
HOSPITALIZED
LIKE THIS
ABOUT A YEAR
AGO, WITH
NO CHANGE
IN CONDITION.

THE GIRL
HAD BARELY
REACHED
TEN YEARS
AND THREE
MONTHS
OF AGE.



THE RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION SHOWED THAT HER BODY, PARTICULARLY HER BRAIN, WAS RIDDLED WITH LESIONS.

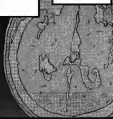


HOWEVER, THE BACTERIA DID NOT APPEAR TO BE CONTAGIOUS.

JUST HOW THEY CAME TO RUN RAMPANT IN THE GIRL'S BODY WAS A MYSTERY.

FEAR OF AN OUTBREAK WITHIN THE HOSPITAL CAUSED A BIT OF A PANIC.

WHEN IT CAME TO LIGHT THAT THIS WAS CAUSED BY A PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN BACTERIA,



THE END RESULT WAS THAT HER PROGRESS WAS BEING MONITORED IN THE LOCAL CITY HOSPITAL.

IT HAD BEEN REJECTED FOR NO APPARENT REASON.

WHEN THE PLAN WAS PRESENTED TO TRANSFER HER TO A MORE ADVANCED HOSPITAL FOR STUDY,

ALTHOUGH
SHE
DIDN'T
KNOW
IT...

IT WAS IN
THE DEAD
OF THE
MORNING,
NOTHING
SHOULD BE
HAPPENING...

dread...

FRANK?

JUST...
WHAT IS
THIS?

..HUH?

WHAT'S
THIS?

A
COMMAND
SEAL.

THAT
PATTERN
WAS
DEFINITELY

THE OTHER THING THE GIRL WAS REMEMBERED WAS—
TERROR AND PAIN.

WE'RE GOING TO MAKE YOU INTO A **SPLENDID** MAGUS.

HER TENDER
YOUNG HEART
COULD
UNDERSTAND
THAT.

ALONG WITH
THOSE WORDS
WAS AN
OUTPOURING
OF LOVE.

BUT THE PAIN GNAWED AT HER.

THE
PAIN
RULED
HER
PAST.

IT HURTS
HURTS; HURTS,
IT HURTS
HURTS; HURTS,
IT HURTS

IT
HURTS

IT
HURTS

IT
HURTS

WERE
OVER-
WRITTEN
WITH
MEMORIES
OF PAIN.

THEY
ALL

AND
SAD
MEMORIES
TOO.

HAPPY
MEMORIES.

FUN
MEMORIES.

I'LL DO
IT BETTER.

I'M
SORRY.

sob

sob

IF IT HAD BEEN
SOMETHING AS SIMPLE
AS ABUSE, SHE MIGHT
HAVE BEEN ABLE TO
SEAL IT OFF WITH
HER HEART.

BUT THE
GIRL HADN'T
KNOWN.

SHE
BELIEVED
THAT IF
SHE
WOULD
JUST BE
ABLE TO
ENDURE IT,
SHE'D BE
RETURNING
HER
PARENTS'
LOVE.

BECAUSE
OF THAT,
SHE WASN'T
ABLE TO
RUN AWAY.

BUT
SHE
COULD
DEFINITELY
FEEL THE
LOVE
COMING
FROM
BOTH OF
HER
PARENTS.





WASN'T
DIRECTED
AT THE
GIRL
HERSELF.

HER
PARENTS'
AFFECTION.



ON
CRAFTING
HER
FUTURE
AS A
MAGUS.

ALL THEIR
EFFORTS
WERE
FOCUSED
SOLELY

SHE WAS
BEING
GROOMED

THEY BEGAN
TO EXPAND
THAT BEYOND
ITS ORIGINAL
APPLICATIONS.

A PORTION
OF THE
MAGECRAFT
OF "BUG USE"
BELONGING TO
A CERTAIN
MAGUS.

THEIR FAMILY
DIDN'T JUST
COME INTO
POSSESSION
OF THE HOLY
GRAIL SYSTEM,
BUT ALSO-

THEY WERE
IN CHARGE
OF THE LAND
OF THOSE
WHO HAD
STOLEN THE
RITUAL FROM
THE ORIGINAL
HOLY GRAIL
WAR.

HER
PARENTS
WERE
CONNECTED
TO MAGES.



AT FACE
VALUE, IT
WAS A
TECHNIQUE
THAT
RESEMBLED
"BUG USE".

THE MAGECRAFT
WAS REFINED
TO USE A HOST
OF "BACTERIA".

IT WAS THOUGHT
THAT BY USING
IT ON A MAGE'S
BODY WHILE THEY
WERE STILL YOUNG,
THE MAGIC CIRCUITS
THAT DEVELOPED
WOULD BE
AMPLIFIED.

THE RESULT
OF SEVERAL
DECADES OF
TRIAL AND
ERROR--

HOWEVER,
SOME OF THE
BACTERIA
RAN WILD,
AND ROBBED
THE GIRL
OF HER
CONCIOUSNESS.

BECAME THE
FIRST "TEST
SUBJECT",
AND THE
MAGIC CIRCUIT
AMPLIFICATION
WAS A GREAT
SUCCESS.

AFTER THEY
HAD COMPLETED
THE TECHNIQUE,
THE DAUGHTER
THEY'D GIVEN
BIRTH TO

AND
THEN
SHE--

AS FAR AS WHAT
HAPPENED TO HER
PERSONALLY, HER
PARENTS DIDN'T
CARE EITHER WAY.

THE REASON THEY
ADMITTED HER TO
THE HOSPITAL WAS
TO FIND OUT

WHETHER HER
AMPLIFIED MAGIC
CIRCUITS COULD
BE PASSED ONTO
HER CHILDREN.



I'M
SORRY
FOR
COMPLAINING
ABOUT THE
PAIN...

I'M
SORRY,

I'M
SORRY..



I'LL
BE
GOOD

I'LL
ENDURE IT
PROPERLY!

I'LL BE
GOOD,
I'LL
ENDURE IT
PROPERLY!

SO
PLEASE...

WHILE
FLASHING
BACK TO
MEMORIES
OF HER
PAST,

SHE
CONTINUED
TO SCREAM
OUT TO THE
UNINHABITED
WORLD.

HER
PARENTS
HAD
ALREADY
ABANDONED
HER AS A
PERSON—

WITHOUT
HAVING
REALIZED

DON'T
ABANDON
ME...!

SO
PLEASE
DON'T
ABANDON
ME!

SAW A
MOMENTARY
FLASH OF
LIGHT.

THE
GIRL

SPOOKS&KIDS





IT WAS
A
SERVANT
ALTOGE-
THER
DIFFERENT
THAN
THE
OTHERS.

SFX:HOWLING WIND

A
THUNDE-
ROUS
NOISE
WAS
BROUGHT
FORTH INTO
THE SILENT
WORLD.
THE SKY-
SCRAPERS
WERE
EVELOPED
IN A
BLACK
MIST--

I
ASK
OF
YOU



M
A

S

T

O
U

My

ER?

A
R

E
Y



BUT THE
GIRL WAS
NOT
AFRAID.

IT WAS
A VOICE
LIKE A
LUMP OF
PURE
DEAD--



MADE
HER
HAPPY--

THAT
FACT
ALONE

CHANGE HAD
VISITED THE
LONELY
WORLD.

SOMETHING
HAD APPEARED
TO FILL IN
HER MEMORIES
AND LONELINESS.



WHO
ARE
YOOOU?

MY
NAME
IS

KURUOKA
TSUBAKI.

FOR THIS
FALSE
HOLY
GRAIL
WAR.

WAS
SELECTED
AS THE
FIRST
MASTER

AND THUS
SHE--

WELL THEN,
I GUESS IT'S
TIME FOR
FALDEUS TO
BEGIN
"ADVERTISING".

ONCE THE
COMMAND
SEAL
APPEARS
UPON MY
HAND

THIS LAND'S
LEYLINES
WILL SOON
BE AT FULL
STRENGTH.

OUR
PREPARATIONS
WILL BE
COMPLETE.

IF WORST
COMES TO WORST,
WE'LL BE ABLE
TO USE THE NOBLE
PHANTASM AS A
WEAPON ITSELF.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

WE'VE
ALREADY
LAID OUT
THE NOBLE
PHANTASM
AND THE
SACRED
RELIC.

WE NEED
TO BE
PREPARED TO
MAKE A PROPER
DEMONSTRATION
OF RESPECT.

AH, NOW
THAT I
THINK OF
IT, IF WE
MANAGE TO
SUMMON
QIN SHI
HUANG

THEY DID NOT
RECEIVE A
COMMAND SEAL--
INSTEAD A DIFFERENT
KIND OF MARK
APPEARED ON THEIR
BODIES.



HOWEVER--
ALL THEIR
PREPARATIONS
WERE MADE IN
VAIN.





SPK: SUDDEN MENTAL REALIZATION





GIMME
A BREAK



WERE WE
ATTACKED
BY AN
ENEMY...

SOMETHING
LIKE THIS...



HIS
THOUGHTS
WERE SO
CONSUMED
BY THE
HOLY GRAIL
WAR,

SET A
TRAP
FOR US...
THEN
HAD
SOME-
ONE
ALREADY...

NO,
THAT
CAN'T
BE...



THAT NOT
EVEN IN
HIS FINAL
MOMENTS
DID HIS
DAUGHTER
CROSS HIS
MIND.





TODAY IS
TSUBAKI'S
BIRTHDAY.

...COME
TO THINK
OF IT.



WE'VE
GOT TO
MAKE
HER A
CAKE.

DEAR.

THAT'S
RIGHT.



THAT'S
RIGHT,
YOU'RE OUR
PRECIOUS
TREASURE
AFTER ALL.



GO AHEAD
TSUBAKI,
YOU'VE
WORKED
HARD FOR
IT.



THANK
YOU!

YOU
CALLED MY
PARENTS TO
THIS PLACE
FOR ME!





THAT WAS PROBABLY THE RESULT OF THE GROWING MAGICAL AMPLITUDE WITHIN HER UNCONCIOUS.

A VISION OF REALITY WAS PROJECTED ONTO THE DREAM.

AS FAR AS THE HOLY GRAIL WAR WAS CONCERNED, IT WAS JUST A ROBOTIC SYSTEM BRINGING ABOUT THE REAPPEARANCE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.

"HE" SIMPLY GAVE HER UNCONCIOUS MAGECRAFT A HELPING HAND.

HE WASN'T ABLE TO UNDERSTAND HUMAN EMOTIONS.

THAT MADE THE GIRL THE WORST, AND THE GREATEST DARK HORSE OF THIS HOLY GRAIL WAR.

AND IT WAS BECAUSE OF THAT, THAT HE WAS ENDOWED WITH INCREDIBLE POWERS.

FROM TIME TO TIME, THE SPANISH FLU WOULD CLAIM 50 MILLION LIVES. HE WAS A HORSE-MAN OF "DISASTER", BEARING MANY AND VARIED CALAMITIES.

ONCE HE SWEEPED THE BLACK PLAGUE ACROSS THE LAND, CLAIMING 30 MILLION LIVES.

PERHAPS THAT WAS THE GREATEST REASON TO WHY HE WAS SUMMONED AS A RIDER.

AND ABOVE ALL ELSE, HUMANITY HAS GIVEN THAT "DISASTER" A SECOND NAME.

FAR FROM POSSESSING HEROIC QUALITIES--

"HE" HAD NO PERSONALITY AT ALL.

IT WAS BECAUSE "HE" WASN'T HUMAN TO BEGIN WITH.



THE GIRL DANCED.

THE GIRL DANCED.

SO THAT SHE WOULD FORGET
ABOUT WAKING UP,

HE DANCED WITH THE GIRL.

HE DANCED WITH THE GIRL.

IN ORDER TO FILL HER EVERY WISH,

AND THRUST THIS
FALSE HOLY GRAIL
WAR INTO FURTHER
CONFUSION.

THIS SERVANT
APPEARED OF
ITS OWN
VOLITION---

KURUOKA
TSUBAKI

COMATOSE
GIRL